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## The Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP)

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In February 2010, the **Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (or GMRP)** was launched.

This project was conceived under the **European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance Programme**, linked to sustainable coastal zone management.

The **Government of Guyana** via the **Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)** has identified the **National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)** as the lead agency for the overall co-ordination of the programme, with guidance from a **Mangrove Action Committee**.

A Project Office was established at NARI, headed by a Co-ordinator and supported by project staff.

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# Fact Sheet

## Mangroves: Uses and Values

For hundreds of years, mangroves have provided benefits to Guyana's coastal inhabitants. We need to ensure that we use these resources responsibly to safeguard the benefits which they provide today and also for years to come. Some of the benefits are direct values while others are indirect values.

**Direct value refers to harvestable products for personal use or for sale in local and international markets.** (*Consumption use* value include: fishing, catching of crab and shrimp, hunting and trapping of birds and other wildlife, harvesting of wood for kitchen gardens and construction, selling of seashells and firewood).

**Indirect value refers to services or uses which do not use up the resource.** This includes environmental services (cleaning up of pollution, protection of shoreline from washing away, homes for many species of fish and wildlife) provided by biological communities not consumed through use (*non-consumptive use value*), potential uses or services from previously untapped species (*option value*: tourism, beekeeping, medicinal and bioprospecting), and the amount of money people are willing to contribute to ensure the continuing existence of a natural resource (*existence value*).

From the list below, identify **what is the type of value (indirect or direct) for each of the following uses/ benefits that mangroves provide:**

- Tourism and recreation: children and adults use the beach area to play cricket, to fly kites during Easter, for beach parties and swimming. Some people like to watch birds and to fish for a hobby.
- The wood produces good heat and is used for cooking and for making bricks. In some countries they make coals and use for BBQ grills also because of the aroma it provides to the meats.
- Wood can be used as timber to build simple sheds etc. Poles are used fishermen and by farmers.
- The bark, leaf shoots and roots of the trees supply tannin used for dyes, leather preservatives and furniture stains. In Region One





Tapa Cloth



- harvesting of the bark for tannin is considered a major livelihood activity for some riverain communities.
- Mangrove sap is used by East Africans and Polynesians (peoples from the Pacific Ocean) to make the black dye for tapa cloth (made from the bark).
- Leaves are used for livestock food, as "green manure" in fishponds, and as tea and tobacco.
- Mangroves are also used as a source of food (mangrove-derived honey, vinegar, salt and cooking oil) and drink (alcohol and wine). The fruits are said to be edible (but be careful, a special recipe has to be used to take out the toxic chemicals).
- Mangroves are being studied as a source of pesticides and agrochemical compounds.
- Toxins found in mangroves may play a future roll in repelling insects.
- Resin extracted from the tree is used in producing plywood adhesives. The manufacture of chipboard and pulpwood (newspaper and cardboard), all depend on by-products of the red mangrove.
- The ash of the red mangrove is used as a soap substitute and other mangrove extracts are used to produce synthetic fibers, such as rayon, and cosmetics.
- In Japan, Australia and the United States, germinated propagules are planted in non-porous pots, making unique houseplants.

## Some destructive Uses

- Indiscriminate cutting of mangroves to make poles.
- Sport hunting/ shooting of birds especially in the closed hunting and trapping season.
- Overharvesting of fish and other food resources.
- Harvesting of seashells to build land, sell as fertilizer or for making of bricks.
- Grazing of animals
- Use of the area for dumping and burning of garbage.
- Hauling of boats over areas with mangroves.
- Bleeding of trees and cutting of bark for tannin.